

Andrew Jackson to William Cocke, June 25, 1798, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIAM COCKE.1

1 Copy.

Nashville, June 25. 1798

Your letter of this date is now before me, and as you deem it improper to make such reparations as justice demands, my feelings and honor say Justice must be done me, Coll. Cocke well knows how and in what point of view I have been publicly held up in by him in Holston and upon what evidence that odium was founded. Coll. Cocke can judge for himself, with what propriety and how consistent it is with the feelings and character of a Gentleman to repair an injury when done and committed, he has *determined*, my feelings and justice demand that the approbrium that has been attached to my character upon false evidence must be publicly washed away by an open declaration that I did not merit the stigma, this is what justice demands, and which I will obtain at the risque of my blood. can Coll. Cocke seriously request me to leave my feelings to men of honor or can he expect that I wou'd do an act that wou'd be a stain to my feelings. my last contains my sentiments on this subject.

with respect to me being deseivd. with false evidence with respect to you, I have not seen the evidence against you. it was your publick charges agt. me and the publicity of my private letter, which you have acknowledg'd.

Coll. Cocke will further observe, that the injury I complain of was committed by him, and that a reparation can alone be made by him by an open and publick declaration that

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those charges were unfounded and inapplicable to me upon investigation, I cannot help rebutting the idea, that I could either do, or wish another to do a dishonorable act, I wish not the blood of Coll. Cocke but my reputation is dearer to me than life and as you have determined that you will not place me on the ground I ought to stand upon and which you know in justice and honor I am entitled to the Gods of fate must decide between you and me. I must be placed with respect to my character and feelings where they stood previous to the approbrium uttered agt me on the testimony which you now know to be false, if Col Cockes feelings cannot dictate to him the propriety of doing this my friend Mr Sweetman is authorised to name the time and place to meet me to give me that satisfaction that the wounded feelings of a Gentleman requires.

I am Sr Yr mo ob St